

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 57
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI PROTECTING
OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING, EXPLORATION, AND
FRACKING

WHEREAS, the City of Cotati and its residents enjoy the beaches and the Pacific Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our local economy; and

WHEREAS, our City's residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic exploration off the Pacific Coast put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills, intense ocean noise, and other damage; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic exploration, fracking and other well stimulation techniques threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health and climate; and

WHEREAS, a massive oil spill in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara fouled coastal waters and caused catastrophic economic and environmental damage; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, a pipeline servicing offshore oil platforms burst and fouled the same coastal areas, damaging wildlife and impacting recreational and commercial activities; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has proposed to dramatically expand offshore oil and gas leasing in all U.S. oceans, including to new areas which have largely been off-limits to new federal leasing, including the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, new federal offshore oil and gas leases have not been granted in the Pacific planning area since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the seismic testing that supports offshore oil and gas leasing is a highly disruptive activity that has been shown to harm marine wildlife, from great whales to fish to zooplankton, over large areas of ocean; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing and other unconventional oil extraction techniques such as acid fracturing, matrix acidizing, gravel packing and cyclic steam injection collectively referred to here as "fracking and other well stimulation," provide another means to expand offshore oil and gas extraction; and

WHEREAS, fracking and other well stimulation increase pollution and the risk of oil

spills and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the offshore oil industry is permitted to dump more than 9 billion gallons of wastewater into the Pacific every year including wastewater from fracking that may be laced with toxic chemicals that can harm human health and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, along with several cities, have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean, and several municipalities have called for a ban on offshore fracking; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling, fracking and other well stimulation off the Pacific coast will deepen the state's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior develops and implements a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program that determines the size, timing and location of lease sales for the Outer Continental Shelf;

WHEREAS, the action of supporting the ban on new offshore oil exploration activities does not constitute a project as defined by California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378; therefore, no further environmental review is required.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cotati City Council supports:

- (1) A ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling, seismic oil and gas exploration, fracking, and other well stimulation in federal and state waters off the Pacific Coast, and
- (2) No new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the Pacific Coast.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Cotati held on the 25th day of September, 2018, by the following vote, to wit:

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: John A. Dell'Osso, Vice Mayor

SECONDER: John C. Moore, Councilmember

AYES: Landman, Dell'Osso, Skillman, Moore, Harvey

Approved: _____

Mayor

Attest: _____

Lauren Berges, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Robin Paige Donoghue

City Attorney